

Front Line Ministries

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FLM

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Inside this Issue:

From Bill 1
Breaking Free 2

From Bill

SERVING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES OF MINISTRY

Front Line Ministries was invited to partner in ministry with Hombres Fieles and CAM, International, in Mexico City. Keith Boyer and I were in Mexico the week of September 29 through October 3, 2004. We were offered the opportunity to present a conference to train Mexican church leaders from ten different churches on how to minister to those dealing with addictions.

Hombres Fieles means Faithful Men. Their vision is to develop leadership in the Mexican church for the purpose of spawning sister churches and multiplying the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mexico City has a population of roughly 23 million! Only 3% of this population could be described as evangelical Christian. There are many young churches in Mexico City. The average believer has been a Christian for less than five years! Development of leaders is essential to the spread of the Gospel by Mexicans to Mexicans.

In preparation for this addictions conference, Keith researched and developed an excellent curriculum for dealing with addictions. Keith's current experience as a pastor, and as a Christian counselor for seven years prior, uniquely qualified him for this ministry opportunity.

Keith demonstrated a tireless energy as he ministered four straight days in four different church settings on how to meet the needs of those addicted to alcohol, drugs and sex. Many Christians in Mexico live with or know someone struggling with addiction.



Craig Williams (CAM missionary) translates into Spanish while Keith Boyer presents material on addiction recovery.

What struck me personally as Keith was speaking is that each of our hearts cries out for a relationship with a living God (Psalm 42:1; Isaiah 55; Jeremiah 2:13). Christ is our only hope to satisfy the desires of our heart. The addict reaches out to any one of a number of external sources. Most of us are not addicted to alcohol or drugs but we are still tempted to fill our hearts with things other than Christ.

When I think about the huge amounts of time that is consumed in my own life worrying about family, health, money and the future, I realize that the same Jesus that can set the addict free from his/her addictions can set me free from the things that consume me.

Isaiah 55 calls us to "Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters... Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near... You will go out with joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." (vs.1,6,12)

Thank you for partnering with Front Line Ministries in ministry to others. Your prayers were particularly felt. As always, your generosity with your financial gifts made this trip not only an opportunity to minister but a reality of ministry! *Flm*

Bill Wakefield



One of the four churches in Mexico City where Front Line Ministries ministered to church leaders and missionaries.

From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

*Ephesians
4:16*

Breaking Free

As we traveled to Mexico City, the purpose of our trip was to provide the missionary community and local church leaders with the information and tools needed to address the problem of addiction within their churches and communities.

Our seminar entitled *Breaking Free* provided about 10 hours of instruction by means of a translator (Craig Williams, CAM missionary) and 24 pages of notes in Spanish. The hand-outs are filled with biblically based information about the cycle of addiction and resources for assisting those struggling with drug and alcohol abuse. ([This resource is available in English and Spanish on our website.](#))

However, our prayer for this trip was not simply that people would receive the information, but that the Lord would use this time of training to impact lives and that He would raise up a few individuals who would begin addiction recovery ministries. God answered our prayers as evidenced in the testimony of those who were a part of the seminar.

I remember the father who, with a grieved heart, discussed his concern for his son, particularly his struggle with allowing his son to face the consequences of stealing from neighbors to support his habit. I remember the woman whose husband desired to stop drinking but did not know where to turn or what to do. She expressed through tears, and our translator, a new found hope. I remember the business man who had stopped taking cocaine but now, as a result of his misuse of drugs, suffers from Parkinson's disease. With enthusiasm he longed to share his struggle, his hope in Christ, and the possibility of recovery with anyone who would listen. Each of these people and many others were offered some hope and direction in the midst of this terrible struggle with addiction.

As in the U.S., drug and alcohol addiction in Mexico is a major problem. In Mexico City, there are addiction programs that cover a spectrum, from abusive communal residency programs in which physical punishment and manipulative coercion are used to control the addict's behavior, to good traditional twelve-step residential and outpatient programs.



One of four churches that hosted the *Breaking Free* training so that Mexican church leaders might grow in their knowledge and ability to minister to those struggling with addictions.

The church has the greatest tools for changing a person's heart. The church can provide a program dependent on the Spirit of God who resides in the life of believers and whose work is released in a person's life through prayer. The church also has God's Word which brings truth into a person life—truth that sets free. And the church is the body of Christ, providing a healing and supportive community. All three tools must be a part of a Christ-centered addictive support ministry. There is particular focus placed upon the power of community—community involving God, the family, the church, and the use of small therapeutic groups.

The immediate impact of our time in Mexico City was evident, but the long term effect is yet to be realized. [Pray with us](#) that the material presented will be used to further the ministry of God's people in the lives of those caught in the terrible struggle of addiction. Pray for the individuals and families we met, pray for the church leaders who desire to help those in their churches and communities, and pray that God would raise up individuals who are willing to follow the Lord's leading and establish Christ-centered addiction recovery ministries. Film

Keith Boyer

Thank you for your part in providing these resources to missionaries and church leaders around the world.